

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—Sir, there is a question tabled by me which also relates to the Medical Colleges. I request that my question may be tagged with this question.

MR. SPEAKER.—I will bear it in mind.

Supply of Essential Commodities

70. SRI P. RAMDEV (Malleswaram)—Will the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that certain food articles, cement and steel are being sold in black market;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check Black marketing;

(c) the measures taken by Government ensuring easy availability of essential commodities to the people of the State?

SRI MANIK RAO PATIL (Minister for Food and Civil Supplies).—

(a) Yes.

(b) The Directorate of Enforcement (Food Cell) has been created and strengthened with exclusive staff for detecting cases of hoarding and blackmarketing. Strict instructions have been given to the police authorities and the Directorate of Enforcement (Food Cell) to enforce various control orders issued the under Essential Commodities Act and to prevent hoarding, blackmarketing and profiteering. The Government orders have been amended suitably to prevent blackmarketing in cement and necessary action is being taken against those indulging in blackmarketing.

(c) Food grains and other Essential Commodities are being supplied to the people of the State through the Public Distribution System.

Cement factories have been exempted from the power cut. The Central Government has been requested to increase the allotment of cement quota to the State. Cement is supplied on top priority basis to the consumers holding foreign exchange in accordance with the Central Government Policy. Necessary steps have been taken to increase the supply of coal to cement factories.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್.—(ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮದೇವ್ ಅವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ) ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೇ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರತಕ್ಕ ಉತ್ತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಳಸಂತೋಷದಿಂದ ವಿರೂದ್ಧ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಎಷ್ಟು ಜನರ ವಿರೂದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಯಾರ ಯಾರ ವಿರೂದ್ಧ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಕೊಡುತ್ತೀರಾ ಎಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

SRI MANIK RAO PATIL.—Sir, dehoarding operations were organised during 1980 and upto 15th March 1981, we have booked 1901 cases involving about 2103 persons, who were arrested. About Rs. 4.17 crores worth of foodgrains and other essential commodities were seized. This is the net result of 3732 raids conducted in the entire State.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್.—ಆಹಾರ ವಿತರಣೆ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳುವುದಾದರೆ, ಹೋಲ್‌ಸೇಲ್ ಡಿಪೋನಿಂದ ಸೀವೆಎಣ್ಣೆ, ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಇವುಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ಎಷ್ಟೆಷ್ಟು ವಿತರಣೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಶಾಸಕರಿಗೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಫೇರ್ ಪ್ರೈಸ್ ಡಿಪೋಗೆ ಹೋದಾಗ ಸ್ಟಾಕ್ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಇಷ್ಟಿಷ್ಟು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ ಎಂದು ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅದು ಫೇರ್ ಪ್ರೈಸ್ ಡಿಪೋಗೆ ವಿತರಣೆ ತಲುಪುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣ ಏನು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಹಿಡಿದು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಆಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯಗಳು ವಿತರಣೆ ಆಗುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

SRI MANIK RAO PATIL.—Sir, I cannot agree with the views expressed by the Hon'ble Member. There is a perfect system of distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities all over the city and in other parts of the State. Our various officers belonging to various hierarchy are constantly keeping a watch over proper distribution of essential commodities through the fair-price shops.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—Sir, the Minister in his answer to (b) has stated that the Government orders have been amended suitably to prevent blackmarketing in cement and necessary action is being taken against those indulging in blackmarketing. May I know the the number of cases detected and the action taken by the Government ?

MR. SPEAKER.—He has furnished the information.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—I am asking with regard to Cement. My question confines itself to the action taken by the Government in respect of use of Cement.

SRI MANIK RAO PATIL.—Sir, with regard to this particular date, I want a separate rotice I do not have the ready information.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—But in the answer at the bottom you have stated that the Government orders have been amended suitably to prevent blackmarketing in cement and necessary action is being taken against those indulging in blackmarketing. I want to know the number of measures taken by the Government in this behalf and the perso s against whom the action has been taken and with what result. He says that he wants a separate notice.

SRI MANIK RAO PATIL.—Sir, it is only to enlighten the Hon'ble Member that we have got necessary provisions under the Essential Commodities Act to deal with such offences. But the Hon'ble Member wants exact numbers for which I require a separate notice.